

Announcements

- ◆ A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests, friends both old and new. We pray that God has blessed your time among us with His Word and Holy Spirit. We cordially invite you to join us this morning for coffee and other refreshments downstairs following the Divine Service; and we ask that you please sign the guest book at the back of the church.
- ◆ There will be a Voters' Meeting this morning, downstairs in the church hall following refreshments. As always, members of Emmaus are encouraged to remain and to participate in this way, also, in the life of our congregation. Family Bible Class will proceed with our study of Genesis next Sunday.

Catechesis class for younger and beginning catechumens meets at the same time. Also, Mike Jindra and Ian Walsh are teaching a catechesis class for children of approximately eight through twelve years of age.
- ◆ Ladies of Emmaus, note: LWML Mites are being collect today (22 March), and donations for our food pantry will be received next Sunday (the 29th).
- ◆ On Wednesday of this week (25 March), we will be gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord in the Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. — following the soup supper, as usual, from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ On Friday of this week, Pastor Stuckwisch will be meeting with the other Circuit Visitors of the Indiana District in Carmel, Indiana. Please keep the pastors in your prayers as they travel to and fro, and as they are meeting.

Pastor Osburn will be preaching and presiding at the brief spoken Divine Service this Friday, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ Next Sunday (29 March), the Sunday of the Passion, the Divine Service will begin with the procession of Palms, remembering our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. The children of the congregation are invited to participate in that procession, as in the past. They should be here, ready to go, by 8:50 a.m.
- ◆ Please note the following Services throughout Holy Week: On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, there will be Matins each morning (at 9:00 a.m.) and a brief Divine Service each evening (at 6:00 p.m.). On Maundy Thursday, there will be a service of Confession and Absolution in the morning (9:00 a.m.), and the Divine Service that evening (6:00 p.m.). On Good Friday, the most solemn day of the Church Year, we will then be gathered at Emmaus for the Divine Service, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

- ◆ Those who may be willing and able to lend or donate Easter lilies or other spring flowers for the adornment of the Sanctuary on the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, please have those to the Church by the morning of Saturday the 4th of April. Thank you in advance for your assistance!
- ◆ **COLLECTIONS FOR 15 MARCH 2015:** \$ 1,618.07
In order to meet our financial obligations and commitments, an average of \$2240 is needed each week.
- ◆ **IN THE LORD'S SERVICE THIS LORD'S DAY:**
(ELDER) Dave Smith; (USHERS) Caleb Smith & Nathaniel Rhein;
(ACOLYTE) Benjamin Horner; (ORGANIST) Monica Stuckwisch;
(GREETERS) Marilyn Dulmatch & Lois Veen.
- ◆ Rev. D. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor Home Phone: (574) 233 – 0574

From the Lutheran Confessions

“Article XXIV. The Mass: We have shown that the Scripture passages quoted against us give no support to our opponents’ wicked idea that the Mass justifies ex opere operato. Good men in every country can see this. We therefore reject the error of Thomas when he writes, ‘The body of the Lord, once offered on the cross for the original debt, is daily offered on the altar for daily offenses so that in this the church might have a service that reconciles God.’ We also reject other common errors: that the Mass confers grace ex opere operato on one who uses it, or that it merits the remission of sins, guilt, and punishment for those to whom it is transferred, even for wicked people, if they do not put an obstacle in its way. These are the wicked and recent fictions of the ignorant monks; they destroy the glory of Christ’s suffering and the righteousness of faith.

“These errors have sired endless others, like the one that Masses are valid when they are transferred to many just as when they are transferred to one. The scholastics have scales of merit, like the money-changers with gold or silver. They sell the Mass as a price for success, to merchants for good business, to hunters for good hunting, and things like that. Finally, they even transfer it to the dead and free souls from purgatorial punishment by the application of the Sacrament, though without faith the Mass does not even benefit living people. Our opponents cannot produce a syllable from the Scriptures in support of the fairy tales which they teach so authoritatively in the church; nor do they have the support of the ancient church and the Fathers.

“Patristic Teaching on Sacrifice: Now that we have explained the Scripture passages that they quote against us, we must also discuss the Fathers. We are aware of the fact that the Fathers call the Mass a sacrifice; but they do not mean that the Mass confers grace *ex opere operato* or that it merits the remission of sins, of guilt, and of punishment for those to whom it is transferred. Where do the Fathers say anything so monstrous? They make clear that they are talking about thanksgiving; hence they call it ‘eucharist.’ We have already said that a eucharistic sacrifice does not merit reconciliation but comes from the reconciled, just as afflictions do not merit reconciliation but are eucharistic sacrifices when the reconciled endure them.

“This is enough of a general reply to our opponents regarding what the Fathers said. Certainly this fiction about merit *ex opere operato* is not found anywhere in the Fathers. But to make the whole matter clear as possible, we shall say about the use of the Sacrament what actually agrees with the Fathers and with Scripture.

“Sacrifice and the Use of the Sacrament: Some clever people imagine that the Lord’s Supper was instituted for two reasons. First, it was supposed to be a mark and witness of profession, just as a certain type of hood is the mark of a particular monastic profession. In the second place, Christ was supposed to be very pleased with a mark that took the form of a meal symbolizing the mutual union and friendship among Christians because banquets are symbols of agreement and friendship. But this is a secular idea that ignores the chief use of what God has instituted. It talks only about the practice of love, which even profane and secular men understand; it does not talk about faith, whose true meaning very few understand.

“The Sacraments are not only signs among men, but signs of God’s will toward us; so it is correct to define the New Testament Sacraments as signs of grace. There are two parts to a Sacrament, the sign and the Word. In the New Testament, the Word is the added promise of grace. The promise of the New Testament is the promise of the forgiveness of sins, as the text says, ‘This is My Body, which is given for you,’ ‘this is the Cup of the New Testament in My Blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’ Therefore the Word offers forgiveness of sins, while the ceremony is a sort of picture or ‘seal,’ as Paul calls it (Rom. 4:11), showing forth the promise. As the promise is useless unless faith accepts it, so the ceremony is useless without the faith which really believes that the forgiveness of sins is being offered here. Such a faith encourages the contrite mind. As the Word was given to arouse this faith, so the Sacrament was instituted to move the heart to believe through what it presents to the eyes. For the Holy Spirit works through the Word and the Sacraments.”

(From the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, 1530)

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY **Divine Service of Communion** **9:00 a.m.**

Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs 10:30 a.m.

Voters' Meeting / Catechesis 10:45 a.m.

MONDAY ***Vespers*** ***6:00 p.m.***

Bible Class 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY *Pastor's Writing Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

WEDNESDAY THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD

Soup Supper 5:30—6:30

Divine Service of Communion **7:00 p.m.**

THURSDAY *Pastor's Family Day (but do call in cases of emergency)*

FRIDAY ***Brief Spoken Divine Service*** ***9:00 a.m.***

Circuit Visitors Meeting in Carmel, Indiana

NEXT SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Divine Service of Communion **9:00 a.m.**

Coffee & Refreshments Downstairs 10:30 a.m.

Catechesis / Family Bible Class 10:45 a.m.

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home:

*This Wednesday (25 March) is the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord
Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Hebrews 10:4–10; and St. Luke 1:26–38*

*The Appointed Readings for next Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion:
Zechariah 9:9–12; Philippians 2:5–11; and St. Mark 14:1—15:47*